

Loudoun County Government
DISABILITIES SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

March 2, 2010

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Joe Granata, Frank Lombardi, Liz Mills, Ken Shipman, Angela Shirazi, Tim Tozer, Hugh Scott, Lovely Law, Julian Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Conrow, Todd Kaudy, Tom Wlodkowski.

STAFF: Catherin Motivans, ADA Coordinator

OTHER: Ben Morgan, Chair, Loudoun County Community Services Board

PUBLIC: Bill Ward (LEND), Tracee Gardner (LEND)

Public Comment: Bill Ward discussed the ongoing problem with Medicaid waivers. Bill mentioned that LEND has been successful in working with the legislature to advocate for maintaining programs for persons with disabilities, but cuts are likely. Bill mentioned that it is important to maintain a presence in the Richmond or else the delegates would forget about persons with disabilities or assume that since they had not heard from people, there are no problems. Bill mentioned that he is still working on the parking issue at the Brambleton movie theater.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Joe Granata called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Hugh Scott and Lovely Law were introduced as new members. The new members described their backgrounds and why they joined the DSB. The existing DSB members welcomed the new members.

III. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BEN MORGAN

Joe Granata welcomed Ben Morgan to the DSB meeting. Ben Morgan briefly recounted his experience on the Community Services Board (CSB), where he has served as the chair for the past three years. Ben noted that the CSB holds open one seat in an *ex officio* status for the DSB as a non-voting member.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ken Shipman motioned to approve the January 2010 minutes; Frank Lombardi seconded the motion. January 2010 minutes approved.

V. DISCUSSION WITH BEN MORGAN

Joe Granata provided a summary of the distinctions between the DSB and the CSB. Joe Granata stated that the DSB focuses on persons with sensory and physical disabilities. The CSB focuses on persons with mental health or substance abuse disorders or developmental disabilities. Joe Granata indicated that, unlike the DSB, the Loudoun County government provides funding in support of the CSB. Joe Granata stated that the purpose of extending an invitation to Ben Morgan was to: discuss ongoing DSB initiatives; discuss potential synergies and cross-collaboration between the CSB and DSB; and to develop a relationship between the two boards.

Ben Morgan briefly discussed the history and purpose of the CSB. He noted that there are forty (40) CSBs across the state, but only eleven (11) counties, including Loudoun, have their own CSB. The remaining twenty-nine (29) CSBs cover more than one county.

According to Ben Morgan, the CSB is affiliated with the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services. The CSB primarily focuses its efforts on advocacy and policy. The CSB does not perform administrative functions such as providing doctors or case management. With regards to advocacy, Ben Morgan indicated that activities include meetings with the Board of Supervisors, meetings with state legislators, publishing articles, and attending public events. With regards to policy, the focus is more on internal practices and policies such as the rights of clients.

Ben Morgan noted that the CSB largely carries out its mission through four (4) task groups:

- (1) Strategic Planning: What the community expects from the CSB. Ben Morgan noted that the group is currently looking at autism and the possible creation of 501(c)(3) organizational status for Loudoun Friends of Mental Health in order to obtain grants.
- (2) Program Review: Focused on Medicaid reimbursement.
- (3) Public Relations: (see above)
- (4) Board Development: Recruitment of new members and member education.

Ben Morgan noted that 61 percent of the CSBs funding comes directly from the County. While the overall numbers have changed over the years, the percentage funded by the County has remained fairly constant.

Ben Morgan shared a copy of the CSB member notebook. In response to a request from Joe Granata, Ben Morgan stated that he would provide a copy to the DSB. Ben Morgan

reiterated a previous comment that any DSB members are welcome to attend, and speak, at CSB meetings.

Ken Shipman and Ben Morgan discussed the CSB member book, its content, and how long it took to assemble. Ken Shipman noted that it might be a good idea for the DSB to consider preparing a similar notebook.

Tim Tozer and Joe Granata inquired into the process of how the CSB maintains control over the four CSB task groups. Ben Morgan indicated that the four task groups are authorized by the full CSB to take certain actions, but that the task groups are given free reign to act without having approval from the full CSB.

Catherine Motivans inquired as to whether Ben Morgan was receiving copies of DSB meeting minutes. Ben Morgan indicated that he could not remember seeing any recently. Catherine Motivans noted that she has been sending them, and Ben Morgan indicated that he would like to see them in the future.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Department of Transportation

Catherine and Tom Wlodkowski attended a VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) meeting at which they learned of a potential grant opportunity that provides 90%-95% matching funds from the federal government. As nobody had applied for the grant, Tom suggested that Virginia Regional Transit Association (VRTA) should apply for the grant. Catherine noted that she and Tom also had the opportunity to continue fostering the relationship between the DSB and VRTA at the meeting.

B. Meeting with Supervisor Burk

Frank and Catherine met with Supervisor Burk on January 10, 2010. Frank reported that the meeting provided the DSB with the opportunity to explain some of our accomplishments to Supervisor Burk including the FAME award and the school bus success story. Frank informed Supervisor Burk of his ongoing troubles with the Leesburg DMV. This issue has been reported in other DSB Meeting Minutes (see, e.g., January 5, 2010). Frank noted that after meeting with Supervisor Burk, he received a phone call from a facility manager that the access issue was going to be dealt with. Frank went to the DMV site and saw the building owner's contractor installing a new automatic door.

Frank prepared a "Shining Star Award" to present to Juanita Tool (Supervisor Burk's assistant) for her help with resolving the DMV issue. Upon recommendation, the DSB approved presentation of the certificate to Ms. Tool.

C. Recruitment Flyer

There was a short discussion about redrafting the recruitment flyer. Julian Murray noted that the flyer is too wordy and complicated. Julian suggested possibly coming up with a catch-phrase such as “Uncle Sam Wants You.” Joe mentioned that the plan is to distribute the flyer on the DSB’s website, the government center, and public events. Ben Morgan suggested that the DSB contact the Washington Post to get the flyer placed in the Loudoun County insert. Liz Mills commented that the flyer seems to have one thought after another, and that we need to clean up the bottom portion. As a side matter, Liz noted that the DSB members should be on the lookout for articles (including editorials or letters to the editor) in the newspapers from people who may be interested in issues facing persons with disabilities. Liz suggested that the DSB should make an effort to contact these people as part of an outreach program. Joe thought this sounded like a great idea.

D. Grant Review

Ken Shipman reported on some preliminary research he performed on possible grants. Ken noted that while there is a great deal of information, it is not very well organized and is difficult to weed through. Ken noted that there seems to be lots of private grant money out there from various groups. Liz suggested that the DSB should try and focus on a core group of issues in order to better pursue possible grants. Joe mentioned the strategic retreat that the DSB held in the fall of 2009 and suggested that, with some new members and about a six-month passage of time since the retreat, the full DSB should review the objectives outlined at the retreat.

E. Procedures for Public Communication

Joe reminded the DSB about the procedures for communicating with the public. Hugh Scott suggested that the DSB should create talking points or key message points. Joe suggested that this topic be addressed at the next DSB meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. FOIA Call In Requirements

Tim Tozer provided members with a quick recap of the issue; namely, whether a quorum can be established through the telephone. Tim reported that the County Attorney’s Office confirmed the DSB’s reading of the FOIA law that prohibits establishing a quorum through the telephone. Once a quorum is established, then other members may participate through the telephone. Joe tabled the issue of whether the DSB should pursue a potential legislative fix.

B. DSB Letter to Hemstreet

Joe noted that Mr. Hemstreet appreciated the DSB's letter and that he would like to attend one of the DSB's meetings after the budget is passed.

C. Approved By Laws

Catherine will email DSB members a pdf file of the final, signed version of the revised DSB Bylaws.

VII. STAFF REPORT

None; Catherine indicated that she had already reported out her issues during the meeting.

VIII. Other Business-Announcements

A. Boy Scout Troop

Ken indicated that he has a great DVD about interacting with persons with disabilities. Ken sent a copy to the Boy Scout Troop that attended a recent DSB meeting. Joe requested a copy of the DVD for viewing at a DSB meeting. Ken said he would try and arrange for one.

B. Public Outreach

Julian mentioned that he would like to send out invitations to organizations to come to DSB meetings. Julian noted that we always meet at 7:00 pm at night, and we should consider a weekend event to raise public awareness. Ben Morgan mentioned that the CSB held a large public event about a year ago that was well attended. Ben agreed that it would be something that the DSB and CSB should look into pursuing jointly. Joe indicated that we would add a line item to next month's agenda to discuss public outreach/awareness.

Tracee Gardner requested assistance with establishing a volunteer board for an ADA event in July 2010 to mark the 20th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. Tracee also mentioned an upcoming summit at McLean Bible Church that will be held on April 23-24, 2010. The website is accessibilitysummit.org. Tracee mentioned that the DSB might want to have a table at the event.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 6, 7 p.m.